AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original) A method for RNA or polypeptide synthesis from a DNA template comprising the steps of

a) providing a cell-free system enabling RNA or polypeptide synthesis from a DNA template, said DNA template comprising a promoter with at least one UP element;

b) recovering said synthesized RNA or polypeptide;

characterized in that the concentration of α subunit of RNA polymerase, but not of other subunits, is increased in said cell-free system, comparing to its natural concentration existing in the cell-free system.

2. (original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said system enabling RNA or polypeptide synthesis from a DNA template is a cell-free system comprising a bacterial cell-free extract.

3. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 2, wherein the promoter on the DNA template includes sequence from the *argC* gene promoter of *Bacillus stearothermophilus*, preferably, the sequence from nucleotide - 89 to +1 when the latter is the first nucleotide in mRNA of the *argC* gene.

4. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 2, wherein said cell-free system further comprises purified thermostable RNA polymerase holoenzyme.

5. (original) The method according to Claim 4, wherein said thermostable RNA polymerase holoenzyme is from *Thermus thermophilus*.

6. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 2, wherein the concentration of α subunit of RNA polymerase is increased by adding purified α subunit of RNA polymerase to the bacterial cell-free extract.

7. (original) The method according to Claim 6, wherein said purified α subunit is added to a final concentration comprised between 15 µg/ml and 200 µg/ml.

8. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 6, wherein the cell-free extracts is prepared from cells overexpressing a gene encoding α subunit of RNA polymerase.

9. (original) A method for the production of a protein from a DNA template in a cell-free system characterized in that it comprises the steps of

a) providing in a reaction mixture, a bacterial cell-free system enabling the coupling of *in vitro* transcription of a

specific gene from a DNA template, and the corresponding protein synthesis;

b) adding to the reaction mixture the DNA template encoding the desired protein and purified α subunit of the RNA-polymerase; and,

c) optionally, adding a thermostable RNA polymerase,

d) recovering the produced protein.

10. (original) The method according to Claim 9, wherein said added thermostable RNA polymerase is from *T. thermophilus*.

11. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 9, wherein said purified α subunit is added to a final concentration comprised between 15 µg/ml and 200 µg/ml.

12. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 9, wherein a DNA-binding regulatory protein is further added to the reaction mixture at step (b).

13. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 9, wherein said DNA template comprises an amplification product of an Open Reading Frame encoding the desired protein.

14. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 13, wherein said DNA template further comprises an additional DNA fragment, which is at least 3 bp long, preferably longer than 100 bp and more preferably longer than 200 bp,

located immediately downstream the stop codon of said Open Reading Frame.

15. (original) The method according to Claim 13, wherein said DNA template further comprises an additional DNA fragment containing a transcriptional terminator.

16. (original) The method according to Claim 13, wherein said transcriptional terminator is the T7 phage transcriptional terminator.

17-27. (canceled)